comprising a fibrous web having a compression resilience, said fibrous web comprising a plurality of openings extending therethrough in a direction of a thickness of the fibrous web, and barriers surrounding and defining said openings,

said barriers comprising a shape holding layer formed from a plurality of thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers and a body fluid retaining layer placed upon one of an upper surface and a lower surface of said shape holding layer and formed from a plurality of thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers mixed with an absorbent material,

said thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers of said shape holding layer being hot welded together at contact points thereof in said shape holding layer,

said thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers of said body fluid retaining layer being hot welded together at contact points thereof in said body fluid retaining layer, and

said thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers of said shape holding layer and said thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers of said body fluid retaining layer being hot welded to each other along an interface at contact points of said shape holding layer and said body fluid retaining layer.

2. (Twice Amended) The body fluid absorbent panel according to Claim 1, wherein said absorbent material comprises a hot weldable high absorbent polymer component in the form of at least one of high absorption polymer particles and a plurality of liquid-absorbent fibers made of high absorption polymer, said thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers of said body fluid retaining layer and said high absorbent polymer component being hot welded together at contact points thereof in said body fluid retaining layer and said synthetic resin fibers of said shape holding layer and

said high absorbent polymer component of said body fluid retaining layer being hot welded together at contact points thereof along said interface of said shape holding layer and said body fluid retaining layer.

B1 cont.

4. (Twice Amended) The body fluid absorbent panel according to Claim 1, comprising at least two of said panels which are placed upon each other in a thickness direction so that openings formed in an upper one of said two panels are divided by at least in two sections by barriers formed in a panel immediately underlying said upper one of said two panels.

B2

7. (Twice Amended) The body fluid absorbent panel according to Claim 1, wherein a ratio between said shape holding layer and said body fluid retaining layer with respect to a dimension of said barriers as measured in its thickness direction is in a range of 6:4 to 8:2.

B3

11. (Amended) The body fluid absorbent panel according to Claim 1, further comprising a lower surface that is a mat-like liquid-absorbent core substantially without any openings.

B4